



WASHINGTON FARM BUREAU
www.wsfb.com

LegisLetter

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Activities of the Legislature affecting farmers and ranchers in Washington state

March 12, 2009

Special Farm Bureau LegisLetter ACTION EDITION Cutoff Deadline is TODAY - Action is Needed in Key Legislation!

(A regular edition of LegisLetter will be sent tomorrow)

- Get Retro Bill: Protect Workplace Safety & Incentive Programs
- Keep Ag in Washington Alive: Stop GMA Regulation Intrusion into Shorelines Area!

Protect Workplace Safety & Incentive Programs

The Senate will vote today on [SSB 6035](#) -- the "Get Retro" Bill.

The bill will make it harder for farmers and other businesses to use the Retro/Safety program. It will increase the costs for associations to run retro programs. It will prohibit Farm Bureau from using retro refunds for many of the labor and employment programs that members have asked us to provide.

Please call your senator and the Governor right now by dialing 1-800-562-6000 and tell them to OPPOSE Senate Bill 6035.

Our message is simple -- the bill will make it harder for employers -- especially small employers -- to use our retro program, it will increase costs, and it will not silence BIAW. The bill punishes farmers and other small employers.

For more information, or to send an email, please visit:
[Help Stop the Attack on Washington's Businesses](#)

THANK YOU.

Contact the House TODAY to Stop GMA Regulation Intrusion into Shorelines Area!

After Losing before the State Supreme Court, Ecology & CTED are trying to win the legal arguments in the Legislature

Last July, the state Supreme Court said that the GMA does not apply in the Shorelines Management Act jurisdiction (about 200 feet from the shoreline). Agriculture is exempt from SMA regulation. Now, the Governor's agencies and environmental activists are trying to change that!

Contact members of the state House and ask them to:

Please vote NO on [HB 1653](#).

This bill will harm agriculture by allowing the Growth Management Act to regulate agriculture within the shorelines areas, which is currently not allowed under law.

This interference with the protection of existing agricultural activities could be devastating to farms struggling to survive.

Additionally, the bill changes the conditions for the discussions at the Ruckelshaus Center. As a condition of coming to the negotiation table, all parties agreed to not promote legislation that would regulate agriculture any more or less during the discussions.

This bill violates that agreement and could be devastating to the now-productive talks about voluntary programs that protect agriculture and the environment.

Stopping this measure is a high priority for Farm Bureau and all of agriculture. The Senate has already stopped this destructive legislation in committee.

Take action by going to the [Farm Bureau Action Center](#) and entering your zip code. It will allow you to send an email directly to your Representatives so they can see it now prior to its introduction on the floor of the House today.

Please act NOW, since today is the deadline to pass or kill this bill and the message needs to be heard immediately.

Again, this does not replace the Friday edition of LegisLetter. We hope you'll take a few minutes to make a call and make a difference!

Bills of Interest

Please note that since some bills have "died" there are two versions of bill tracking posted on our website. Please check the file name and date to distinguish between the two. Since there is always a chance a bill may be "revived" we judiciously keep a copy of bill tracking as it was before cutoff, in addition to the active bill tracking list. Both are available at:

<http://www.wsfb.com/issues/legisletter>.

5 p.m. TODAY is another cutoff. As such, you may see some changes in the bill tracking posted on 3/13/09.

Information Resources

Washington Farm Bureau: www.wsfb.com

Legislative Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Governor's Bill Actions: www.governor.wa.gov

Legislative Hotline: (800) 562-6000